

### **REMARKS**

In the Official Action, the Examiner acknowledged the election of species set forth in the response filed on October 30, 2009, and withdrew claims 16 and 19 from consideration. With respect to the substantively examined claims, the Examiner rejected all of the claims except claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ota et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,160,949, and its published WO counterpart (WO 01/533369).<sup>1</sup> The Examiner only objected to claim 15 and indicated that such claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Dependent claim 15 recites a method of producing the modified polyolefin resin according to claim 14 wherein a propylene-based polyolefin resin (a1) is graft-polymerized in the presence of a radical polymerization initiator (c) with a vinyl monomer (a2) having a hydroxyl group to produce a polyolefin modified with a vinyl monomer having a hydroxyl group, and successively, a monomer comprising a lactide or a lactic acid as a main component is polymerized in the presence of the polyolefin modified with a vinyl monomer having a hydroxyl group. It is understood that the Examiner considers this claim to be allowable over the teachings of the Ota et al. documents which relate to olefin **block** copolymers as demonstrated by the title, abstract, specification and claims of the Ota et al. documents.

By the present Amendment, sole independent claim 14 has been amended to specify that the defined modified polyolefin resin (C-1) comprising a copolymer having a structure that a propylene-based polyolefin segment (a) and a segment (b) containing a lactic acid as a constituent are bonded in a graft state through a vinyl monomer having a hydroxyl group. The claim further defines the number average

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<sup>1</sup> It is noted that the Examiner inadvertently did not include U.S. Patent No. 7,160,949 on the PTO-892 form and applicant respectfully request that a further citation form with the '949 patent be provided with the next Action.

molecular weight of the propylene-based polyolefin segment, the number average molecular weight of the segment (b) containing lactic acid as a constituent, and the weight composition of the propylene-based polyolefin segment (a) and the segment (b) containing lactic acid as a constituent. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended to revise the "characterized" language to "wherein" phraseology that is used in other of the dependent claims and claims 18 and 19 have been amended consistent with the amendment to claim 14.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims place all the claims in condition for allowance. Consistent with the indication of allowability of claim 15, claim 14 now defines the copolymer as having a structure that a propylene-based polyolefin segment (a) and a segment (b) containing a lactic acid as a constituent are bonded in a graft state which is structurally different from the olefin block copolymers described and claimed in the Ota et al. documents. With the allowance of claim 14, applicants further respectfully submit that dependent claims 16 and 19 should also be found allowable.

Since all matters raised in the Official Action have been met by the present Amendment, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the instant application.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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